

JANUARY 2006 WEATHER SUMMARY

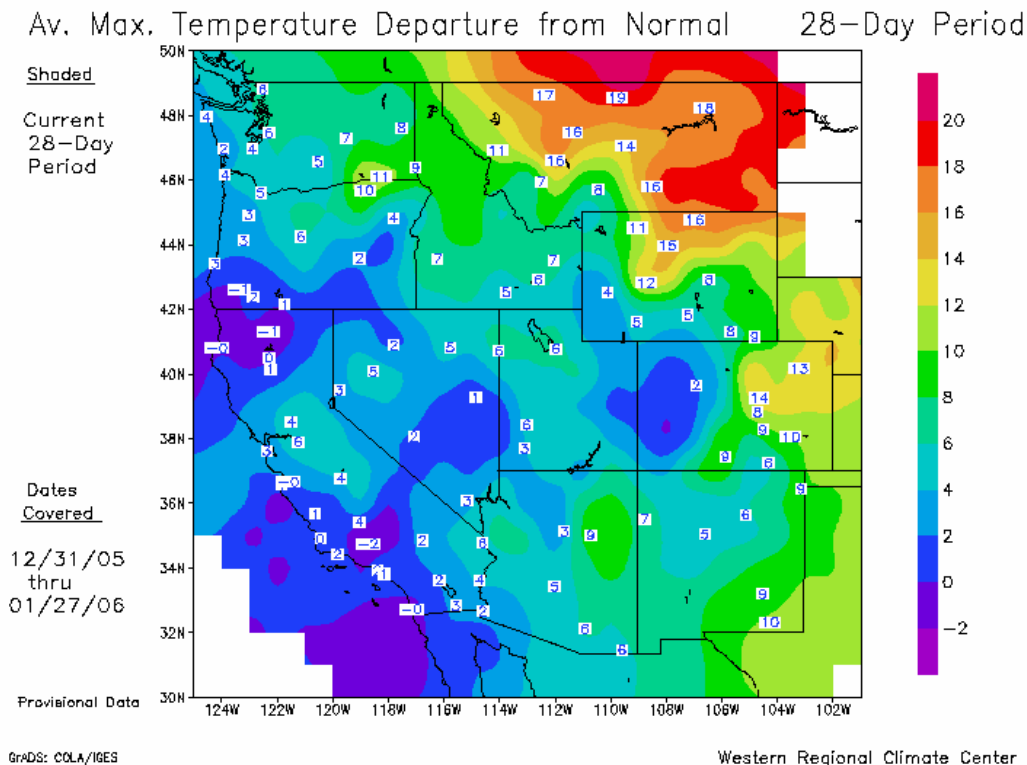
RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

For most of January, a ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures. However, a few pacific troughs brought near to a little below normal temperatures for short periods of time. The troughs brought above normal precipitation to Central California and below normal precipitation to Southern California. Winds were mainly northerly with the ridges of high pressure and southerly with the pacific troughs. There was one strong onshore wind event the first couple days of the month, but most of the month was dominated by periods of strong offshore winds.

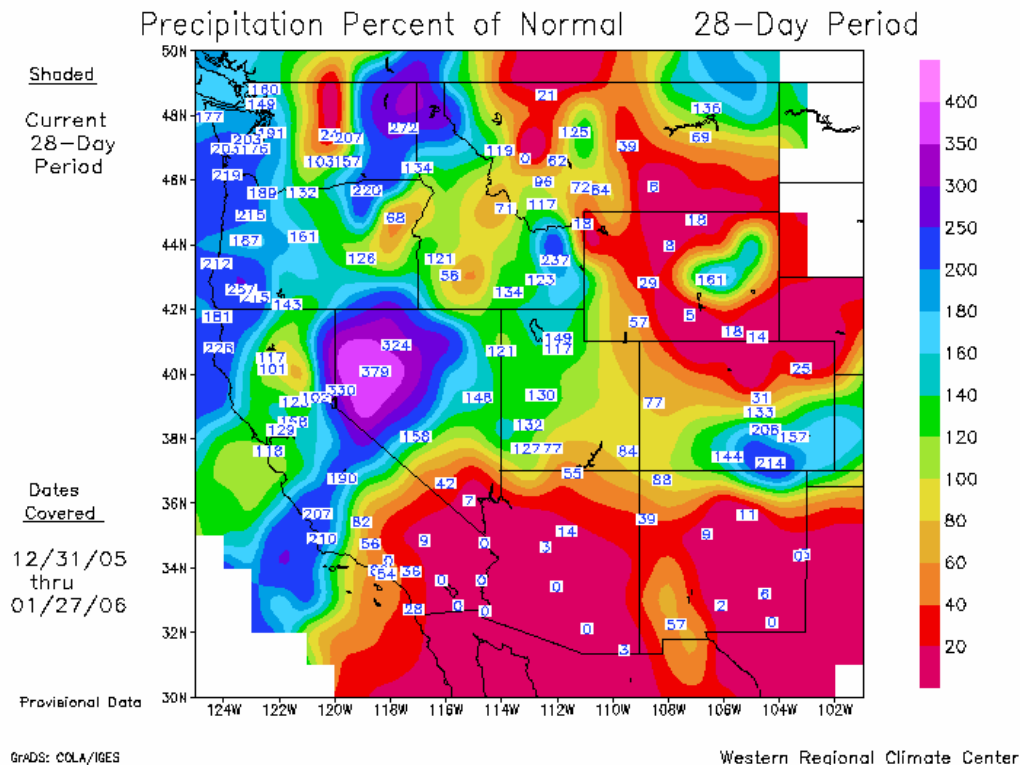
TEMPERATURES

A ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures during most of January. However, a few pacific troughs brought near to a little below normal temperatures for short periods of time. Across Southern California, many valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 70s and 80s with the ridges of high pressure and 60s with the pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 60s to low 70s the whole month. For the entire month, maximum temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below normal over some South Coast locations to 6 degrees above normal over some eastern Desert locations. Riverside set a daily high maximum temperature on January 6th with 86 degrees. Riverside set a daily high minimum temperature of 55 degrees on January 5th and 51 degrees on January 23rd.



PRECIPITATION

Most of the precipitation that fell during January occurred during the first two days of the month as a strong pacific trough moved inland over the state. Over Central California, most locations received 2 to 4 inches of rain with this trough. Over Southern California, most locations from Los Angeles County north received 1 to 2 inches of rain, while most locations south of Los Angeles County received less than an inch of rain. During the rest of the month, a few weak troughs brought up to another inch of rainfall over Central California and another quarter inch of rainfall over Southern California. The snow level over the Sierra was generally between 6,000 and 7,000 feet for the month. Several new feet of snow fell above this level during the first two days of the month with another foot of snow falling during the rest of the month. Snow fell above 8,000 feet over Southern California with little accumulation. Overall, most locations over Central California received above normal precipitation, while most locations over Southern California received below normal precipitation. Riverside received 0.25 inches of rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 2.45 inches.



WINDS

Winds were mainly southerly with the troughs and northerly with the ridges of high pressure. Southerly winds were mainly between 10 and 20 mph with the troughs and northerly winds were mainly between 5 and 15 mph with the ridges of high pressure. However, there was one strong onshore wind event January 1st – January 2nd and periods of strong offshore wind events, especially over Southern California throughout the month. During the strong onshore wind event, winds were 15 to 30 mph with gusts in the 40s and 50s. During the strongest offshore wind events, winds were 20 to 40 mph with gusts in the 50s and 60s. There were about 10 days this month that had moderate or stronger Santa Ana winds over Southern California. The strongest Santa Ana winds occurred on the 23rd, and there was some wind-caused damage.

WILDFIRES

There was one major wildfire this month. The Plunge Fire on the San Bernardino National Forest started around noon on the 23rd. A Type 2 Team contained the fire on the 26th, but not before it burned 485 acres.

CONCLUSION

Overall, January had above normal temperatures. Precipitation was above normal over Central California and below normal over Southern California. Winds were mainly

southerly with the troughs and northerly with the ridges of high pressure. There was one strong onshore wind event at the beginning of the month with periods of offshore flow dominating Southern California much of the month.